

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented): A picture encoding system conversion device comprising:
a decoder receiving picture codes, compressed in information volume, from a reception side transmission channel via an input buffer and expanding the received picture codes to output expanded picture codes;

an encoder compressing the picture codes, decoded by said decoder, in information volume, to generate picture codes to output generated picture codes from an output buffer to a sending side transmission channel; and

a transcoder controller controlling said encoder;

wherein

said transcoder controller includes

an input buffer monitor monitoring said input buffer of said decoder;

an output buffer monitor monitoring said output buffer of said encoder; and

a quantization step controller modifying a quantization step in compression processing of said encoder based on the information from said input buffer monitor and said output buffer monitor,

wherein said modification of said quantization step is based on an input buffer storage volume measured at the input buffer.

2. (original): The picture encoding system conversion device as defined in claim 1,

wherein

said decoder includes a variable length a decoder unit;

said transcoder controller further includes a decoder monitor monitoring said variable length decoder unit;

said quantization step controller modifying the quantization step of said encoder based on the information from said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor and the decoder monitor.

3. (currently amended): The picture encoding system conversion device as defined in claim 1,

wherein

said transcoder controller includes a reception side transmission channel monitor monitoring ~~the~~a state of said receiving side transmission channel, and

a sending side transmission channel monitor monitoring ~~the~~a state of said sending side transmission channel;

said quantization step controller modifying the quantization step of said encoder based on the information from said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor, the reception side transmission channel monitor and the sending side transmission channel monitor.

4. (currently amended): The picture encoding system conversion device as defined in claim 1,

wherein

said decoder includes a variable length decoding unit;

said transcoder controller further includes a decoder monitor monitoring said variable length decoding unit,

a reception side transmission channel monitor monitoring ~~the~~ a state of said reception side transmission channel, and

a sending side transmission channel monitor monitoring ~~the~~ a state of said sending side transmission channel;

said quantization step controller modifying the quantization step of said encoder based on the information from said input buffer monitor, said output buffer monitor, said decoder monitor, the reception side transmission channel monitor and the sending side transmission channel monitor.

5.-22. (canceled).

23. (previously presented): The device of claim 1, wherein the quantization step depends on a difference between a pre-conversion code volume and a post-conversion code volume.